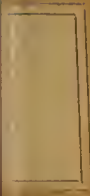


Rotzell, W. E. Birds of Harborth, Pa. and vicinity.



(1895)

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BIRDS OF NARBERTH, PA.,
AND VICINITY.



BY

W. E. ROTZELL, M.D.

1895.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

This list was prepared for *The Citizen*, a paper published at Narberth, Pa., and portions of the list were printed in that paper for June 22d and June 29th, 1895. The birds included constitute all of the species recorded by the writer for the whole of this (Montgomery) county, but, of course, does not pretend to be a complete list of the birds of the county. A list of the birds of Montgomery County has never been published.

Birds of Narberth, Pa., and Vicinity.

THE accompanying list of the birds observed in the vicinity of Narberth does not profess to be a complete list of all of our birds, but only such species as have been noted by the writer during the past three years. The list is published with the hope that it will be of interest to those who desire to possess some information relative to our native birds, and to stimulate others to make observations, so that a complete list may be obtained.

There are, doubtless, many other birds that occasionally occur in this vicinity, but I have refrained from recording any except those that are well authenticated, preferring that future observations should add to the list rather than take from it.

In commenting on the various species, I am especially indebted to Warren's *Birds of Pennsylvania* and Stone's valuable production on the *Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey*.

Any notes pertaining to the birds of this vicinity not included in the list, or observations relating to the recorded species, will be thankfully received.

1. **Anas boschas.** MALLARD. Migrant; not common. Several were shot near Narberth two years ago.

2. **Aix sponsa.** WOOD DUCK. Observed occasionally along Mill Creek.

3. **Botaurus lentiginosus.** BITTERN. Summer resident in some portions of Pennsylvania, but rare here. An adult male of this species was run over by a train near Merion Station, November 9, 1894, and is now in the collection of Mr. Frank L. Burns, of Berwyn, Pa. The bird possibly flew against the telegraph wires and then fell to the track.

4. **Ardea herodias.** GREAT BLUE HERON. Occasionally seen in spring and fall.

5. **Ardea virescens.** GREEN HERON. Summer resident.

6. **Nycticorax nycticorax nævius.** NIGHT HERON. Summer resident; tolerably common along Mill Creek. Breeds in Montgomery County.

7. **Rallus virginianus.** VIRGINIA RAIL. Rare summer resident.

8. **Porzana carolina.** SORA. CAROLINA RAIL. Rather common; migrant. "Mr. Thomas S. Gillen has occasionally found it breeding at Ambler, Montgomery County."—*Stone*.

9. **Philohela minor.** AMERICAN WOODCOCK. Rare summer resident.

10. *Bartramia longicauda*. BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER. An occasional summer resident ; not common.

11. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER. Common summer resident in region of Mill and Cobb's Creek.

12. *Ægialitis vocifera*. KILLDEER. Common summer resident, breeds.

13. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB WHITE. Formerly resident, but now rare.

14. *Zenaidura macroura*. DOVE. Tolerably common ; summer resident.

15. *Cathartes aura*. TURKEY VULTURE. Summer resident. "I have found nine nests in Chester and Delaware Counties during the past seven years."—*Warren*.

16. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. Common resident, and probably breeds here.

17. *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK. Common resident, breeds.

18. *Buteo borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK. Resident. Usually observed in winter.

19. *Buteo lineatus*. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. Winter resident. "Dr. W. E. Hughes found one nest near Phoenixville, Pa., some years ago."—*Stone*.

20. *Buteo latissimus*. BROAD-WINGED HAWK. Resident, not abundant, but, from the number of sets of eggs taken in southeastern Pennsylvania, evidently breeds more frequently than *Accipiter velox*.

21. *Haliæetus leucocephalus*. BALD EAGLE. Rare. I saw a single bird of this species along the Perkiomen Creek in May, 1893.

22. *Falco sparverius*. SPARROW HAWK. Common resident, frequently breeds.

23. *Megascops asio*. SCREECH OWL. Very common resident, breeds.

24. *Bubo virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL. Resident, but not common.

25. *Coccyzus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. Common summer resident, breeds.

26. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. Summer resident, not as common as the preceding. Probably breeds.

27. *Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER. Summer resident in Montgomery County, occasionally seen along Mill Creek, where it probably breeds.

28. *Dryobates villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER. Common resident, but never abundant. "Hairy woodpeckers from the Pennsylvania mountains seem to have decidedly longer bills than the lowland birds, this being perhaps an approach towards the northern variety, *D. villosus leucomelas*."—*Stone*.

29. *Dryobates pubescens*. DOWNY WOODPECKER. An abundant resident, breeds.

30. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. Usually common as a summer resident. This species is reported from time to time as occurring during the winter.

31. *Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER. Common summer resident, breeds. This species is doubtless the most well-known of all our woodpeckers. In different localities it is sometimes known by various names, such as the Yellow-shafted Flicker, Golden-winged Woodpecker, Pigeon Woodpecker, High-holder and Yellow Hammer.

32. *Antrostomus vociferus*. WHIP-POOR-WILL. Rare summer resident in this vicinity.

33. *Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHT HAWK. Summer resident, occasionally breeds. This bird is insectivorous; a hawk by name, but not by nature. "The great mistake of applying improper vernacular names to birds was clearly demonstrated during the enforcement of the Scalp Act of 1885, when commissioners, of whom I have knowledge, took the stand that they were obliged to allow bounty on the nighthawk because it was known as a 'hawk.'" — *Warren*.

34. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT. Very common and well-known summer resident, breeds. Formerly built its nests in hollow trees, but adapting itself to modern civilization it has now extensively taken its abode in chimneys.

35. *Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. Common summer resident, breeds.

36. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD. Common summer resident, breeds. The Kingbird, pewee, and all of the flycatchers are among the best of the feathered friends of the farmer.

37. *Myiarchus crinitus*. CRESTED FLYCATCHER. Common summer resident, breeds.

38. *Sayornis phœbe*. PHŒBE. PEWEE. Very common summer resident, breeds. In mild winters a few are resident.

39. *Contopus virens*. WOOD PEWEE. Common summer resident, breeds.

40. *Empidonax acadicus*. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. Summer resident, breeds. Usually frequents open woods in the vicinity of water.

41. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY. Resident. This bird is not as common in this vicinity as it is in some portions of south-eastern Pennsylvania. It bears a very bad name, as it is supposed to be destructive to other species. "It robs every nest it can find, sucks the eggs like the crow, or tears to pieces and devours the young birds." — *Audubon*.

42. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW. An abundant resident, breeds.

43. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. BOBOLINK. REED-BIRD. Common migrant. In the North this species may be considered beneficial,

being largely insectivorous, but in the Southern States the Reed-bird does great damage. Large numbers of these birds visit the rice fields in the spring, devouring the seed grain, and again at harvest time in the fall. According to Dr. C. Hart Merriam, the annual loss they occasion is about \$2,000,000.

44. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD. Common summer resident. The eggs of this bird are deposited in the nests of other species.

45. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. Common summer resident, breeds.

46. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOWLARK. Common resident, breeds.

47. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE. Common summer resident, breeds.

48. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Common summer resident, breeds.

49. *Quiscalus quiscula*. PURPLE GRACKLE. Common summer resident, breeds.

50. *Carpodacus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH. Rare winter straggler.

51. *Spinus tristis*. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. Resident, common in summer, breeds.

52. *Poocætes gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW. Common summer resident. "During the winter months is quite frequently to be met with in the southern portion of the State."—*Warren*.

53. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. Summer resident.

54. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. Winter resident.

55. *Spizella monticola*. TREE SPARROW. Common winter resident.

56. *Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW. Common summer resident, breeds.

57. *Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW. Common summer resident, breeds.

58. *Junco hyemalis*. SNOWBIRD. Common winter resident.

59. *Passer domesticus*. ENGLISH SPARROW. Abundant resident, breeds.

60. *Melospiza fasciata*. SONG SPARROW. Resident, common in summer, breeds.

61. *Passerella iliaca*. FOX SPARROW. Common as a migrant, occurs usually in small flocks.

62. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. CHEWINK. TOWHEE. Abundant summer resident, breeds.

63. *Cardinalis cardinalis*. CARDINAL. Common resident, probably breeds.

64. *Habia ludoviciana*. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. Occurs as a migrant, not abundant.

65. *Passerina cyanea*. INDIGO-BIRD. Common summer resident. Have found its nest in Montgomery County, but not in this immediate vicinity.

66. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER. Summer resident. This species does not seem to be as common as it was a few years ago.

67. *Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN. Summer resident, breeds.

68. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW. Summer resident, but not very common.

69. *Chelidon erythrogaster*. BARN SWALLOW. Common summer resident, breeds.

70. *Tachycineta bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW. Summer resident. Breeds regularly at Valley Forge, Penna.

71. *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW. Summer resident in Montgomery County.

72. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. Common summer resident in Montgomery County.

73. *Ampelis cedrorum*. CEDARBIRD. CEDAR WAXWING. Common resident, probably breeds.

74. *Vireo olivaceus*. RED-EYED VIREO. Common summer resident, breeds.

75. *Vireo gilvus*. WARBLING VIREO. Summer resident.

76. *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. Rather common as a migrant.

77. *Helmitherus vermivorus*. WORM-EATING WARBLER. Summer resident in Montgomery County. I have never met with it in this vicinity.

78. *Helminthophila peregrina*. TENNESSEE WARBLER. Rare migrant.

79. *Compsothlypis americana*. PARULA WARBLER. Common migrant.

80. *Dendroica æstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER. Rare summer resident.

81. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER. One of our most common migrants.

82. *Dendroica maculosa*. MAGNOLIA WARBLER. Rather common migrant.

83. *Dendroica striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER. Common migrant.

84. *Dendroica blackburniæ*. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. Rather common migrant.

85. *Dendroica dominica*. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. A rare migrant. I saw presumably this species during July, several years ago.

86. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*. YELLOW-PALM WARBLER. Common migrant. "The true *D. palmarum* belongs west of the

Alleghenies. Stragglers have, however, been taken on the Atlantic slope."—*Stone*.

87. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. OVEN-BIRD. GOLDEN-CROWNED THRUSH. Common summer resident, breeds.

88. *Geothlypis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER. Rather common summer resident.

89. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. Common summer resident, breeds.

90. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. Common summer resident, breeds.

91. *Setophaga ruticilla*. AMERICAN REDSTART. Common migrant. I have, on several occasions, seen this bird during the summer. It probably breeds sparingly here.

92. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD. Abundant summer resident, breeds.

93. *Harporhynchus rufus*. BROWN THRASHER. Common summer resident, breeds.

94. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. CAROLINA WREN. Resident, not common.

95. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN. Summer resident, breeds, but is not as common as formerly.

96. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER. Common migrant, occasionally a winter resident.

97. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Resident, breeds. It can hardly be considered common in this vicinity.

98. *Parus bicolor*. TUFTED TITMOUSE. Common resident.

99. *Parus atricapillus*. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. Occasionally found during the winter.

100. *Parus carolinensis*. CAROLINA CHICKADEE. Common resident.

101. *Regulus satrapa*. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Winter resident.

102. *Regulus calendula*. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. Common migrant.

103. *Turdus mustelinus*. WOOD THRUSH. Common summer resident, breeds.

104. *Turdus fuscescens*. WILSON'S THRUSH. Rather common as a migrant.

105. *Turdus ustulatus swainsonii*. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. Common spring and fall migrant.

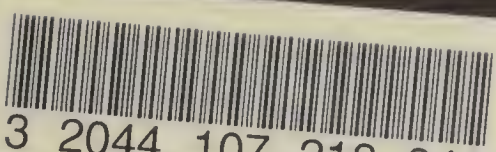
106. *Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH. Common migrant.

107. *Merula migratoria*. AMERICAN ROBIN. Common summer resident, breeds. A few occasionally remain with us during the winter.

108. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD. Resident, breeds. This species is much less abundant than formerly.

Rotzell's Birds of Narberth, Pa., and Vicinity.³—This is a briefly annotated list of 108 species. It does not profess to be a complete list of the birds of the limited area of which it treats, but is excellent as far as it goes, giving briefly just the information most desired in a local list. It includes only such species as have been personally noted by the writer, and forms a good point of departure for further additions, which the author solicits aid in making. He says that he has "refrained from recording any except those that are well authenticated, preferring that future observations should add to the list rather than take from it"—a rule compilers of local lists would do well to always follow. The list is printed with good taste and presents an attractive appearance.—J. A. A.

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